

CHAPTER I.

Hope and Disappointment. Lieutenant Thomas Holton, commander of the Scorpion, made as about to crumple the dispatch in his though to place the dispatch in his pocket, then, taking pity upon his "second," who was all eyes, he turned the paper over to his junior lieutenant, no answer. known throughout the flotilla as "Bobby" Frost.

"You will leave Newport News at ten o'clock tonight with the destroyer Scorpion and proceed south to the parent ship of the First Torpedo Boat Flotilla off Key West, prepared for ac-

This order was warmly welcomed by Holton and by his second in com and of the grim, lead-colored Scorpion-

"It looks like business, doesn't it?" observed Frost, with tentative inflection in his voice.

"It does, sure," chuckled Holton. "I'm glad we had those baffle-plates fixed in the boiler. I suppose we might as well have the war-heads fixed on the torpedoes, too. The orders say 'prepare for action.' Attend to it, will you, Frost?"

"Aye, aye, sir," and Frost hurried along the grimy, oily deck to the after companionway

the dialogue between the two will be officer. forgiven by the fastidious when it is pointed out that for a month the Scorpion had been laying at Newport News on detached duty of a confidential nature under direct orders from Washington, and that Holton's sole companion aboard ship in that time had been his young second. But the period of loneliness was evidently to end in a burst of glory and Lieutenant Holton was truly thankful.

In the preceding month the mighty battle-ship Maine had wallowed down into the slimy ooze of Havana Harbor, a great hole torn in her forward compartments. In her lay one of Holton's best friends, a shipmate of pleasant days following graduation at the Naval Academy. The cry, "Remember the Maine," was sounding from Maine itself to California. The entire country was on the qui vive. Osgood, the hero of many an American football gridiron, had, as a Cuban volunteer, given up his life at the side of a machine gun; Frederick Funston had served valiantly against the tyrants of Castile and Aragon, and other Americans had given evidence that the fight | Frost trying to make light of the mysing spirit was by no means dormant in terious situation. the heart of a nation of "pigs and tradesmen."

With the situation thus there was little cause for wonder at Lieutenant delayed rather longer than he should Holton's emotions of mental exaltation. Whatever the future might hold for him, at least this seemed certain: there would be action, and that is something for which your true gentle- ington. Eventually, indeed, he and man of the service is ever on the Koko had to run, and as he reached

Something of the mood of the two young officers was communicated to the crew. There were broad grins on all the men's faces as they hurried



Especially Worth Watching."

tasks, and many of them did not forbear to turn inquiring faces toward their officers whenever occasion offered-which expressions, naturally their officers "failed" to see.

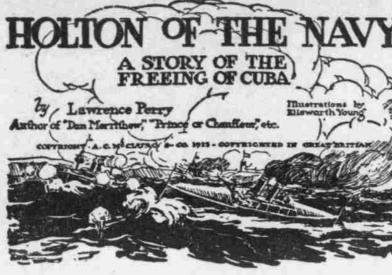
At sunset everything was in readiness, and with a sigh of relief Holton into the presence of Secretary Long's stretched himself on the narrow seat assistant. running along the mess-room and lovingly filled his pipe. Frost did like tainly no evil augury was to be detectwise and then looked over at his su-

perior. "By George!" he cried, "think of having the opportunity of putting into in these days." practice all the things we've learned!" "It won't be bad fun at all," replied blously.

Holton. Frost was about to utter another thought when the doorway was dark-

ened by the figure of a messenger. "A telegram for Lieutepant Hol-

ton," he said sainting



the contents. His face clouded and he read it again. A good strong word hand when his eye fell on the messenger standing at attention.

"Oh, thank you," he said; "there is

As the messenger departed Holton handed the telegram to his second without a word.

"You will proceed at once to Washpossible moment. Lieutenant Frost ROOSEVELT." your absence,

does that mean?" he exclaimed.

"Hanged if I know," growled Holton 'Isn't that just my luck! I've been from, and not toward us." working on this old pot trying to get her into shape and hoping and praying for a chance to make good, and then when there appears to be something doing, why I get skinned this way.'

Frost knew exactly how the commender felt, and his natural exultation at being placed in command of mutual advantage." the destroyer was quite swallowed up in his sympathy for a man who was The somewhat informal nature of his good friend as well as his superior

Holton sat for a while blowing blue clouds of smoke to the ceiling, outwardly calm, but inwardly seething. He went over every act in the past ing he had done that would warrant his recall in disgrace.

"Well, Bobby," he said at length, 'you're a real live captain now. And congratulate you."

"I feel like a man who is going to put on a pair of boots that are too big

for him," remarked Frost. "Oh, nonsense!" smiled Holton

vouch for you, Bobby.' Frost smiled. "Thanks," he said; "I'd rather have

that from you than from almost any one I know." "Well," laughed Holton, "take it then; it's sincere. He arose and called

to the steward. "Oh, you, Koko," he said, "come in here and help me pack. I'm going to leave you for a while."

Dinner that evening was rather a ournful affair, neither Holton no

He shook hands with Frost at eight o'clock, and with Koko carrying his bag, started for the station. He had have done in writing supplementary letters to his parents, and now he found it was necessary to make haste if he was to catch the train for Wash-

the station the cars were pulling out. The Jap threw the bag into the open doors of the rear one and Holton made the steps with a flying leap. As he did so a man who had been following about the performance of the various the two essayed a similar flight, but his feet missed the steps and he clung to the gilded rail with his left hand.

As Holton reached down to assist him the man lost his grip and went plunging head over heels into the gravel. Evidently his fall did not injure him, for as Holton peered back along the rails he saw the fellow rise slowly and shake his fist at the departing train.

If he had known the circumstances under which he was to meet this stranger at a time not far distant, his feeling of relief when he saw that the man was not seriously injured might have been tinctured by emotions of various sorts.

Having put up at the Metropolitan club, Holton passed such time as had to elapse before the assistant secretary would be at his desk in the Navy Department building in a fever of impatience.

Having at length finished his cigar and his morning paper—which bristled with bellicose matter-Holton put on his hat and overcoat and sauntered slowly toward the Capitol. At ten o'clock he went over to the Navy Department and sent his card in to the

assistant secretary. Presently his summons came while yet another man was engaged in the inner office. This man, however, brushed out past Holton as the young officer, with mingled emotion, walked

"Good morning, Mr. Holton." Cered in the hearty cadence of the greeting. "Sit down, sir. I'm glad you were so prompt. That's what we need

"Thank you, sir," said Holton du-

The assistant secretary observed him keenly for a moment, and then apparenty satisfied with his scrutiny, he arose and paced up and down the

length of his office. "By George, Mr. Holton!" he said.

Holton took it hastily and ran over | "when you realize that war is coming | taking the form of preparations for an -coming as sure as guns, and then attack upon our troops by Cuban consider our unpreparedness for it-it forces after we have cleaned the Spanwas trembling on his lips, and he was makes you glad it's Spain and not lards out of the island." someone else."

"I think the navy's pretty fit, sir," ventured Holton.

"Ab, the navy! And the army!" The words came out like bullets. "The

Holton nodded slightly. "I liked your action in diving overaboard the Scorpion will accrue to our to keep us in touch with matters as

The assistant secretary paused, and then as Holton made no reply, he continued:

"We are not yet at war with Spainnot yet, and in the meantime I think it will be just as well for you to remain in fairly close touch with my offive-personal touch. By the way, month or so, but could think of noth- there's a ball at the Willard tonight-" "A ball!" exclaimed Holton. Then he caught himself. "Yes, sir," he add-

> "Yes, a ball at the Willard. Here is a card-you'll note it is a personal invitation to you."

Holton glanced at it. "I see it, sir." He hesitated. "I am merely, merely to go there and You're in every way qualified. I'll dance? I mean-mean, sir, are there any instructions?"

"I should keep my eyes and ears open if I were you.'

"Yes, sir, I'll do that, and I hope I'll be able to be of some service," he was rising to go. "Although-although I'm afraid I lack-that is, and-" Holton paused and glanced irresolutely at his

"That you lack definite information," said the assistant secretary, who seemed to have the faculty of reading his thoughts and expressing them before Holton himself could frame them in suitable, or, we'll say, diplomatic terms.

"Why, yes, sir-I have a feeling that the situation is indefinite.'

"Yes. Sit down, Mr. Holton." Holton resumed his chair and his chief leaned forward, talking rapidly in a low tone.

"Here is the nub of the situation," he began. "In the first place we have reason, excellent reasons, for suspecting that there are certain elements among the Cubans, both in the United States and in Havana, that are strongly inclined to doubt the good faith of the United States in this brewing trouble with Spain."

Holton, thrilled by the promise of revelations which these opening words conveyed, thrilled, also, by his induction into the inner affairs of the government mill, flushed and regarded the eyeglasses turned toward him, with unblinking eyes, impatient for the next

"Naturally." continued Mr. Roosedone they want us to clear out. Which, of course, we shall do, having first estem of government down there."

was in question," observed Holton.

"What a chance!" exclaimed Holton, with patriotic fervor,

The assistant secretary smiled. "I myself regard the project as crack-brained in its conception, but navy is all right, and the army, too, nevertheless it exists and must be met. what there is of it. The fighting men We must learn their plans at all of both arms of the service are the hazards, and I can tell you now that best this world ever saw: getting while we have a general idea as to the ington and report to me at the earliest things started, that is the trouble. situation, it is little more than gen-Well, thank Heaven, Dewey's," the eral, and details of a specific nature will assume command of Scorpion in assistant secretary stopped short, and would be very welcome. I want you craning his neck forward, character- to see what you can do. Your record As Frost read the message aloud his istically thrust his square jaw close is that of a clear-headed man of initivoice quivered with excitement. "What to the officer's face. We've all got to ative and common sense. You speak do the best we can and be sure that Spanish, you are equally at home in when the blow comes it will come a ballroom or in roughing it. You're the man we want."

> "Thank you, sir." "I have been extremely confidential," board and rescuing two of your men resumed the assistant secretary, "as last summer." resumed Mr. Roosevelt. naturally it was necessary I should be "And I may say that a study of your Any further information I receive from record has convinced me that just at the Secret Service will be transmitted present a little respite from duties to you, and in turn I shall expect you you develop them. Now then, at the ball tonight you are to become acquainted with the following if you can locate them."

He handed Holton several sheets of typewritten matter, headed by half-

tone photographs. "That man especially is worth watching," continued Holton's chief, pointing to the portrait of a well-appearing Cuban, apparently about fifty years old, "and this girl also."

"I understand," said Holton. I have a good idea of what you want, I think, Mr. Secretary, and I hope I don't have to tell you that I shall leave nothing undone to carry out your wishes."

"You don't," was the smilling reply. "It is rather new ground, but it will be interesting work, and will give me a chance to see action, perhaps, before the rest of the crowd."

The assistant secretary smiled. "Thinking of the Scorpion, eh," he laurited. "Well, I'll wager a new suit of clothes against an apple that you'll soon have so much to occupy your mind that your destroyer will be nothing but a hazy memory."

"I'll try to make it so, at all events," laughed Holton. "Good morning, sir." "Good morning. You may report hore until furthe

at this hour." "Yes, sir." Holton turned and left the office.

The assistant secretary wheeled deeply for a moment. Then he picked up a paper.

"By George!" he murmured, "that young chap is in for a bully time." Meantime Holton walked cheerily to his club, and there met several brother officers who were keen for billiards. So the remainder of the day was spent

at this diversion. He had a table at the Willard for dinner, whence he intended to proceed to the dance. He dressed with great care, and at the last thrust into the source of new infection. his hip pocket an article not usually regarded in polite society as a complement of evening attire-a short, thick, very serviceable-appearing revolver.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Explanation of Potlatch.

The word potlatch is a corruption of an Indian word common among the velt." the Cubans are eager to avail Pacific coast tribes, meaning festhemselves of our armed forces affoat tival of gifts. At a patshatl (potand ashore, but after the work is all latch) celebration the more personal property an Indian gives away, blankets, ornaments, etc., the higher he tablished some decent and stable sys- stands in the estimation of his neighbors, and the more he expects to re-"I had not any idea our good faith ceive in return at the next potlatch. The festival is also accompanied by "It is," was the reply, "and it is music, dancing and feasting.



WILL SOME DAY BE UTILIZED

Almost Unlimited Power In the Cur rent of Niagara River, at Present Unharnessed.

"But for the efforts of the civic associations whose desire is to preserve the scenic beauties of the world in general, the Niagara river could be made to develop enough power to move every street car, light and heat every house and supply all the power for manufacturing industry in the state of New York," said Edwin W. Trimmer, United States consul at Niagara Falls, Ontario, at the Shoreham. "At present scarcely more than 5 per cent. of the possible power of the Niagara river has been harnessed. falls will some day be harnessed by some engineer without affecting the

scenery in any degree. "It has been only within the last chester Guardian.

quarter of a century that even the falls themselves have been utilized. There have been efforts made to use the current of the river below the falls, but these efforts have not proved commercially successful. But one has only to ride over the gorge route from the city of Niagara Falls, N. Y., to Lewiston and back, over the Cliff road, on the Canadian side, to realize at a giance what a terrific force surges through the channel, and to understand the possibilities of power development there."-Washington Post.

Giving Them Warning. At the annual picnic of a Manchester firm one of the packers was called upon after dinner to propose the toast to the firm. He was rather nervous, The current of the river below the and began thus: "Mr. Chairman and firm, which will be very brief."-Man panying illustration.



LADYBUGS TO DESTROY APHIS

Capture of Bugs in California is Interesting Industry-Gathered and Sent to Insectory.

(By MRS. A. JOSEPH, California.) The capturing of ladybugs to kill aphis, is a very interesting industry, in this state. During the early winter months, the miners are always on the lookout for the ladybugs, and they, in turn, notify the State Entomologist, and he has them gathered and sent to the state insectory.

The bugs are gathered up, while they are off guard, and thrown into gunny-sacks. Then, they are transported by pack-train, over the snow, to the station, from which place, they are forwarded by train.

Humbug Canyon is a favorite place for the ladybugs. When the canyon fills up with snow, in the winter, and there is no more food, they foregather in the higher places, where there are great bunches of moss. The warmth of their bodies is conserved, in this way. The little fellows on the outside worm their way inward, and when they get warm, crawl out again, for a breath of fresh air.

In this way, they spend the winter season. Like others, of their kind, the ladybugs sleep through the winter. Then the warmth of spring helps them to shake off the spell, and they are ready for work.

In the insectory, an artificial winter is made, with ice, and, by turning on the cold, it suspends animation in her ladyship.

She will live for months without food; some having been kept, in cold storage, for six months, without food. The ladybugs are gathered in advance of the melon and cabbage sea-

ifornia, where they grow melons and cabbage. As no spray will reach the aphis, the lice, which prey on those vines, ladybugs are the only cure.

FIRE BLIGHT OF APPLE TREE

Disease is Caused by Bacterium and Is Very Contagious-But One Method of Eradication.

STACKMAN, Assistant Plant gist, University Farm, St.

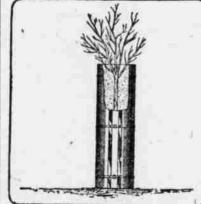
There is a great deal of twig and branch blight of apple trees this year, indicated by the browning of leaves and blackening of twigs. Not only the smaller branches are affected, but also large limbs, and, in some cases, even

the trunks. The disease is caused by a bactearound in his swivel-chair and thought | rium, and is very contagious. Usually the microbe is carried by insects to the flowers, where it multiplies rapidly, and the blossom is blackened and killed, or it may extend along under the bark, killing the twig and often extending to the branches also takes place through tender shoots. For this reason, in orchards where the disease has gained a foothold, nothing should be done to encourage rapid growth. The germs sometimes live through winter in holdover cankers and are

> There is but one method of eradicating the blight from an orchard, that is, cut it out, preferably in late summer or fall. The branches should always be cut some distance back from the diseased parts, and after each limb infected by dipping into a solution of the size of an ordinary match-head. corrosive sublimate in the proportion The looks of it was horrible, which of one part of the poison to one thousand parts of water.

Arizona Man Designs Covering, Extending Around Trunk at All Sides to the Crown.

In describing a tree protector, invented by C. I. Helm of Phoenix, Ariz., the Scientific American says: It is the design of this invention to



Tree Protector.

provide a protector by which the tree can be thoroughly protected, the protector being adapted to extend from the ground to the branches of the tree, and to hold a cylindrical body of earth extending around the tree trunk gentlemen, I have very great pleasurs at all sides to the crown and among in rising to propose the nealth of the the branches, as shown in the accom-



solved once for all by Calumet. For daily use in millions of kitchens has proved that Calumet is highest not only in quality but in leavening power as well—unfailing in results-pure to the extreme-and wonderfully economical in use. Ask your grocer. And try Calumet next bake day.

Received Highest Awards



Remarkable Record. Three generations of a family named Welland have contributed 173 years' service at a farm near Godalming, Surrey, England. William Welland, aged sixty-nine, has worked for 59 years. His father did 60 years' service, and his two sons have done 30 and 24 years.

SCALY PSORIASIS ON LIMBS

Troop H, 6th U. S. Cavalry, Camp McCoy, Sparta, Wis .- "I was troubled with psoriasis for nearly two years. Portions of my arms and limbs were affected mostly with it. It appeared in scaly form, breaking out in very small dots and gradually grew larger is cut the pruning knife should be dis- and white scales formed when about made it very unpleasant for me. It

itched a little at times. "I tried several treatments which PROTECTION FOR THE TREES cured me for a month, but it always broke out again. One day a friend saw the advertisement of Cuticura Soap and Ointment in the paper and I sent for a sample. They helped me, so I purchased two more boxes of Cuticura Ointment and some Cuticura Soap and they completely cured me. It took three months for Cuticura Soap and Ointment to complete my cure." (Signed) Walter Mahony, Oct. 22, 1912.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book, Address postcard "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston."-Adv.

Men declare their love before they feel it; women confess theirs only after they have proved it.-Latena.

Red Cross Ball Blue gives double value for your money, goes twice as far as any other. Don't put your money into any other. Adv.

Verhoyansek, in northeastern Siberia, is the coldest inhabited town in the world. The winter minimum is 85 degrees below zero.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflamma-tion, allays pain, cures wind code, ac a bottle.

A good husband is an asset, but a worthless one is a liability.

